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TELEGRAPH BRANCH CONFIDENTIAL SECURITY INFORMATION

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Control: 2637
Rec'd: March 7, 1952
3:10 a.m.

FROM: Bonn

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1856, March 6, 6 p.m.

Your A-529, February 7, 1952 re International Congress of Free Jurists.

International Congress of Free Jurists is planned for Berlin from July 14-July 22, 1952. Idea to hold congress originated with investigating comite of free jurists; congress will take place principally under its immediate auspices and all arrangements will be made by the comite. Plans for congress are not (rpt not) yet complete. Work still proceeding on its agenda, general composition and curatorium planned for it. First public announcement of plans for congress will be made in immediate future, probably within next two weeks. Until then, plans described here shld not (rpt not) be publicized.

Aim of congress is to acquaint legal circles of free world and also portions of its general public with injustice of all kinds practiced in name of Communist regimes. Congress wishes to do this in most objective, specific and professional terms.

Crimes of Communist regimes will be considered category by category with specific examples from as many countries as possible; voluminous files of investigating comite itself will be used as chief research vehicle of congress. Examples of how legal problems handled with no (rpt no) justice in Communist countries as handled by various systems of justice in countries of free world will be given. Conclusions will center around what free world can do to fight injustice behind iron curtain and keep up hope of its inhabitants. World's "free jurists" hope in this congress to show Communist-dominated populations that they are aware of Communist injustice and determined to fight it. Dr. Friedenau hopes that it may be possible to form, as result of congress, international investigating comite of free jurists who will attempt to do throughout the world -- especially for all Communist-dominated countries -- something of the valuable work now (rpt now) performed in Berlin for Soviet zone of Germany by Dr. Friedenau's investigating comite.

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-2- 1856, March 6, 6 p.m., from Bonn

While exact composition of congress is uncertain, Dr. Friedenau's intentions are clear. Congress will, he hopes, have approx 120 participants. Of these not (rpt not) more than 6-7 will come from any one country. Every major country will, he hopes, be represented by 3-6 reps, smaller countries being represented by 1 or 2. It is his hope to invite some of most prominent figures of these countries who are lawyers; he has spoken with Mr. Paul Henri Spaak of Brussels and hopes to invite the Chief Justice of the Japanese Supreme Court. He also has hopes of getting Dr. Arnold Toynbee to come from England to discuss certain more general concepts of law in society. Refugee jurists will represent every major country under Communist domination at end congress.

In regard to US representation at congress, Dr. Friedenau wld like to have some 5-6 American participants. Purpose of Friedenau's letter to Mr. Bonsal (ref A-529) was apparently to establish a contact with Mr. Justice Learned Hand of New York whom Dr. Friedenau apparently wishes to serve on curatorium of congress. It is evidently Dr. Friedenau's intention to have Justice Hand suggest names of other prominent American jurists who might be invited. Mr. Bonsal has written that Justice Hand will reply to Dr. Friedenau's letter soon; no (rpt no) letter from Hand has as yet been received, however.

Re general qualifications, beside legal background, Dr. Friedenau wld prefer jurists who have become prominent in community or political activity in their own countries. A lawyer specially interested in civil rights wld be pertinent. Specialists will be sought in criminal, labor, civil and constitutional law etc., and a rep of any of these fields wld be most welcome. Knowledge of communism or of legal conditions in Communist countries is not (rpt not) qualification: "We're going to tell them about that," Dr. Friedenau averred.

Inquiry was made of financial support for congress. Dr. Friedenau said that "an institution in America" has agreed to pay all travelling (and apparently per diem) expenses for congress participants. This sum may, Dr. Friedenau remarked, run to about \$100,000. Arrangements for free space, reduced living cost, etc., will be made in Berlin. Cooperation of Fed Rep and city of Berlin is being sought; draft plan is now (rpt now) being considered by Min of Justice in Bonn and Senator for Justice in Berlin.

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To: OPERATIONS 1 APR 52
ACTION: EE (1-6) IN 32050
INFORMATION: RI (7-8) AD/PC (9) CAL (10) IO (11-12) WE (13-14) PY (15-16)
~~S/C (17-18-19) DDP (20)~~

Paraphrase Not Required. Handle as SECRET Correspondence per Pars. 51 (1) 60A AR-380-5

BR LN 5513

TO: WASHG INFO: FRANG. [] MUNIG, BONNG CITE: BRLNG
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1. TPEMBER ANNOUNCED DURING BUNDESHAUS PRESS CONFERENCE 28 MARCH.
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF FREE JURISTS TO BE HELD IN WEST BERLIN BETWEEN
JULY 23 - 26.

2. PRESS CONFERENCE HEAVILY ATTENDED BY GERMAN AND FOREIGN
CORRESPONDENTS. RIAS AND NWDR RECORDED ANNOUNCEMENT FOR REBROADCAST.

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SOURCES/METHODS EXEMPTION 3020
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

Project to promote
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